Synopsis for Proposed Research

SHASHI THAROOR'S SELECTED NON-FICTION PROSE WORKS: A CRITICAL STUDY

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Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

Researcher

Mr. Karbhari Santosh Sudhakarrao

Research Supervisor

Dr. S. T. Haibatpure

(M. A., M.Phil., Ph.D.)

Head, Dept. of English,

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Mahavidyalaya, Deoni

Dist. Latur- 413 519

Research Centre

P. G. Department and Research Centre in English

Mahatma Gandhi Mahavidyalaya, Ahmedpur Dist.Latur- 413515 (M.S.)

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Introduction

The Genre of Non-fiction in English Literature

Defining nonfictional prose literature is an immensely challenging task. This type of literature differs from bold statements of fact, such as those recorded in an old chronicle or inserted in a business letter or in an impersonal message of mere information. As used in a broad sense, the term *nonfictional prose literature* here designates writing intended to instruct (but does not include highly scientific and erudite writings in which no aesthetic concern is evinced), to persuade, to convert, or to convey experience or reality through "factual" or spiritual revelation.

Non-fictional prose genres cover an almost infinite variety of themes, and they assume many shapes. In quantitative terms, if such could ever be valid in such non measurable matters, they probably include more than half of all that has been written in countries having a literature of their own. Nonfictional prose genres have flourished in nearly all countries with advanced literatures. The genres include political and polemical writings, biographical and autobiographical literature, religious writings, and philosophical, and moral or religious writings.

After the Renaissance, from the 16th century onward in Europe, a personal manner of writing grew in importance. The author strove for more or less disguised self-revelation and introspective analysis, often in the form of letters, private diaries, and confessions. Also of increasing importance were aphorisms after the style of the ancient Roman philosophers Seneca and Epictetus, imaginary dialogues, and historical narratives, and later, journalistic articles and extremely diverse essays. From the 19th century, writers in Romance and Slaviclanguages especially, and to a far lesser extent British and American writers, developed the attitude that a literature is most truly modern when it acquires a marked degree of self-awareness and obstinately reflects on its purpose and technique. Such writers were not content with imaginative creation alone: they also explained their work and defined their method in prefaces, reflections, essays, self-portraits, and critical articles.

The 19th-century French poet Charles Baudelaire asserted that no great poet could ever quite resist the temptation to become also a critic: a critic of others and of himself. Indeed, most modern writers, in lands other than the United States, whether they be poets, novelists, or dramatists, have composed more nonfictional prose than poetry, fiction, or drama. In the instances of such monumental figures of 20th-century literature as the poets Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, and William Butler Yeats, or the novelists Thomas Mann and André Gide, that part of their output may well be considered by posterity to be equal in importance to their more imaginative writing. It is virtually impossible to attempt a unitary characterization of nonfictional prose. The concern that any definition is a limitation, and perhaps Ever an exclusion of the essential, is nowhere more apposite than to this inordinately vast and variegated literature. since the ancient Greek and Roman philosophers devised literary genres, some critics have found it convenient to arrange literary production into kinds or to refer it to modes.

The Tradition of English Prose Writing

Raja Rammohan Ray was the first Indian to effectively express himself in black and white through English though he was initiated to the language when he was in his teens. Thereafter Vivekananda showed his perfect masterly over the language through his evocative prose, which made the west sit up and take notice of the greatness of Hinduism. Tagore also had written some poems in English. However, there is no denying the fact that Indian writings in English were extremely few far between. Jawaharlal Nehru and M.K. Gandhi were also great masters of the English language. Nehru's Discovery of India, Glimpses of World History etc. are glaring testimony to not only his profound scholarship but also his absolute mastery over writing lucid prose in the foreign language. Gandhiji used the language in his writing with utmost precision and dexterity. They were followed by the great triumvirate of Anand-Rao-Naryan, who were the first to make Indian writing in English popular among a sizable section of our English educated people. They primarily wrote fiction and their elegant styles soon caught the imagination of the common reader. Indian writing in English had finally arrived in 1930's after a marginal existence for over a century.

Shashi Tharoor - A Brief Biographical Sketch

Shashi Tharoor has emerged as a significant contemporary Indian English. He has a successful career as a diplomat and politician born on 9 March 1956 in London, UK, author, columnist, elocutionist, human right activist, former UN envoy and an existing member of the Indian Parliament, Shashi Tharoor is an impeccable blend of charm, wit, and elegance. Having served the UN for 29 long years and giving his rivals a tough run for the cream post of UN Secretary-General, Dr. Tharoor returned to India to begin his fresh political innings. Apart from his passion for politics, he had been an active columnist writing for many eminent newspapers, both national and international papers including the Washington Post, the New York Times, the Times of India, The Hindu and more. He has also published a whole slew of fiction and non-fictions that have been translated in more than nine languages and have won him appreciation from all corners. A compelling speaker and a polyglot, Dr. Tharoor's contributions have fetched him a string of awards and honors including Commonwealth Writer's Prize, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman and was also conferred with the title of "Global Leader of Tomorrow".

Tharoor has had a remarkable innings in the UN. Tharoor began his career in UN in 1978, soon after he gained his Ph.D. He started his career as a member of staff for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees where he fiercely championed the cause of peace and humanitarian values. He became senior officer in United Nations headquarters at Yew York and continued this dignified post from 1989 to 1996. In the following years, from 1997 to 1998 he became the executive assistant to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Considering his key role in UN, Government of India announced Shashi Tharoor as the candidate for UN Secretary General in 2006. Although he couldn't become the Secretary General of UN, his services to the organization is remarkable.

His writing reveals the present growing India and the world. His books are always informative for the readers. He focuses on all aspects which help in the growth of the nation and revolutionary change in various fields such as agriculture, industry, transport, telecommunication etc. It is essential for us to be in touch with the outside world and it is easily possible by reading Shashi Tharoor and his writing.

The present study gives more emphasis on critical analysis of non- fiction prose work written by Shashi Tharoor. The study is limited to selected non-fiction prose work.

Brief Summary of Selected Primary Texts

India Shastra: Reflection on Nation in Time

India Shastra is a collection of 100 articles and essays, some longish, some rather short, that seek to convey a portrait of contemporary India from the perspective of late 2014. Many of the pieces began life as columns in the media, but have been updated and expanded for this volume; some are adapted from speeches. Few have been left as they were originally written and delivered, since they are meant to be read at the dawn of 2015. The judgments in the book should stand as contemporary reflections of the India in which they are now being published.

The Elephant, The Tiger, And The Cell Phone: Reflections on India - The Emerging 21st-Century Power

Interest in India has never been greater. Here Shashi Tharoor, one of the subcontinents most respected writers and diplomats, offers precious insights into this complex, multifaceted land, which despite its dazzling diversity of languages, customs, and cultures remains more than 60 years after its founding the world's largest democracy. He describes the vast changes that have transformed this once sleeping giant into a world leader in science and technology, a nation once poverty-stricken that now boasts a middle class of over 300 million people as large as the entire population of the United States! Artfully combining hard facts and statistics with opinion and observation, Tharoor discusses the strengths and weaknesses of his rapidly evolving homeland in five areas politics, economics, culture, society, and sports and takes a fresh look at the world's second most populous country.

India : The Future Is Now

It is published in 2013, is a collection of thoughts of young Indian Members of Parliament. This book raises many questions about various problems and challenges that India faces today. The contributors come from opposing political parties, and urban and rural backgrounds. However, they show that despite walking on different paths, each one of them hopes to uplift every underprivileged Indian.

This book covers topics that include education, healthcare, technology, political reforms, and biofuels. Some contributors are Priya Dutt Roncon, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Milind Deora, and Poonamben Jat. The Union Minister ofState for Power, M. B. Rajesh, Sanjay Jaiswal, and Jyotiraditya Scindia, highlight how India's demand for power is much higher than the supply. Anurag Singh Thakur discusses a unique point about how cyber warfare can threaten Indian sovereignty. BJP member, Jay Panda, focuses on the importance of increasing the budget for infrastructure. The book also discusses healthcare, rural development, bio fuels, and new technology.

India: The Future Is Now demonstrates how bold steps can help solve many problems that the nation faces. It also shows that these young leaders are responsible for India's future, and citizens should put their faith on them. The essays prove that these men and women are deeply analytical, and their voices need to be heard. India: The Future Is Now also has cartoons by Sudhir Tailang. This book is for those who want to learn about India's role in the global economy, and how India should lead the way towards peace and democracy.

At the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947, a new nation was born. It has 17 major languages and 22,000 distinct dialects. It has over a billion individuals of every ethnic extraction known to humanity. It has a population that is nearly a third illiterate, but also one of the world's largest pools of trained scientists and engineers. Its ageless civilization is the birthplace of four major religions, a dozen different traditions of classical dance, and three hundred ways of cooking a potato.

An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India

The British Empire in India originated from a speech made by Shashi Tharoor at the Oxford Union in 2015, that went viral across digital platforms clocking 3.5 million hits.

In this explosive book, the author reveals with acuity, impeccable research, and trademark wit, just how disastrous British rule was for India. Besides examining the many ways in which the colonizers exploited India, ranging from the drain of national resources to Britain, the destruction of the Indian textile, steel-making and shipping industries, and the negative transformation of agriculture, he demolishes the arguments of Western and Indian apologists for Empire on the supposed benefits of British rule, including democracy and political freedom, the rule of law, and the

railways. The few unarguable benefits—the English language, tea, and cricket—were never actually intended for the benefit of the colonized but introduced to serve the interests of the colonizers. An Era of Darkness will serve to correct many misconceptions about one of the most contested periods of Indian history.

India: From Midnight to the Millennium

the Faction of a Nation

Shashi Tharoor embarks on a journey from the millennium trying to find the answer to the paradox that is India, to discover the essence of Indian identity. It is proposed in the present chapter to bring out Tharoor's forthright discussion in India: From Midnight to the Millennium (1997) of sectarian violence that has ripped the country, the corruption that is rife in the ranks of the Indian Administrative Service and the difficulties that face a nation in which forty-eight percent of the population remains illiterate. Tharoor's optimism about the future of India and the Indian is highlighted. Tharoor's commitment to democracy and his upholding proclamation that, with all its faults, democracy as it is practiced in India is better than the alternatives, is being elucidated. Secondly, his commitment to India's pluralism, the greatest asset of the nation, contributing to its identity as singular as well as plural, is examined. His commitment to secularism with its concomitant virtue of tolerance and his opposition to religious fundamentalism are also brought out in detail. The chapter seeks to establish that the imaginative organization of facts ultimately contributes to the Factional fabric of the narrative.

Shashi Tharoor's Views on Colonisation

It is often forgotten that while India is an ancient civilization, it is still a young nation. But nearly 70 years after Independence, we are still dancing to the tunes of the British Raj. Our political system reflects the one in Great Britain, and a number of laws have been left untouched since their implementation before Independence.

Recently, Tharoor had announced his wish that one of India’s most renowned heritage spots, the Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, be converted into a museum that displayed the truth of the infinite atrocities administered by the British in India. This famous monument, built between 1906 and 1921, stands testament to what Tharoor has been rallying against – the glorification of the British Raj.

Themes and Narrative Techniques

Understanding narrative begins with the problem of the relationship between the actuality of life's events and the artifice of narrative. The word "narrative" has been derived from the Latin word "narrare" means "to relate" and "gnarus" ("knowing") and the Sanskrit root gna ("to know"). So, "narrative" strictly means "to relate in order to know" To relate what? To know what? A narrative relates a sequence of events – "and then" this happened (linearity) and "therefore" that happened (casualty) – which provides knowledge about human nature, family society, culture and history, the individual and the world, motives and choices, character and conduct, dilemmas and conflicts suffering and bliss, good and evil, love and sex, laws and possibilities, lifetime and generations time and death, memory and hope, the cosmic enigma and human fate. David Carr contends that the "first role" of narrative is in actual life as an ontological faculty with a "practical" function to enable us to make sense of "what is going on around us" Carr emphasizes "the narrative character of everyday experience" and the quality of: Narration being intertwined with the course of life….[and] its role in constituting the sense of the action we are engaged in and the events we are living through, its role in…giving shape and coherence to the sequence of experience we are having as we are having them .It is not only the novelist who is a storyteller but all of us.

Scope of the Research

The scope is limited to the critical analysis of, non-fiction texts. An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India, India Shastra: Reflection on Nation in our Time, India: The Future Is Now, The Elephant, The Tiger, And the Cell Phone: Reflections on India - the Emerging 21st-Century Power, India; From Midnight to the MillenniumThe Faction of a Nation. The study will be carried out to analyse the texts as the works of literature.

Relevance of the Present Study to the Society

The present study will help to study Shashi Tharoor's emerging thoughts on the contemporary world and India's place in today's world. There is an urgent need to understand the problems which our nation face. Through this the future aspirants will change their way of thinking on Indian history, culture and foreign strategy of India.

The present research focuses on how India has been a great country of all time. The study will provide the motivation to the readers, teachers, politicians and businessmen, so that they will take much interest in their own individual fields and have a faith and pride for the nation

Objectives of the Research

The proposed research work consists mainly the following objectives:

- To carry out critical analysis of selected texts in order to bring out major thematic concerns.
- To examine the relevance of the issues voiced by the author.
- To illustrate how Tharoor's works express the concepts of colonialism, nationalism, culture, and allied themes.
- To place the selected writings in the context of contemporary English Prose Non Fiction.
- To study and analyze narrative techniques of Shashi Tharoor.

Hypothesis

- Shashi Tharoor represents trajectory of India’s economic and social development.
- Tharoor’s writing highlights essential role of youth in development of the country.
- Impact of colonization of India’s progress is delineated in his nonfictional writing
- Tharoor’s nonfictional writing technique is persuasive.

Probable Date of Completion

The research project is proposed to be completed within the time limit as stipulated by the university.

Research Methodology

The method of library research will be followed. Field work is not deemed to be necessary for the proposed research. Internet sources will be utilized. Communication with the author for eliciting responses to critical questions maybe established if necessary. MLA methodology will be strictly followed for reference.

Plan of the Thesis

The present study would comprise the following chapters :

Chapter I - Introduction
Chapter II - Shashi Tharoor and Indian Writing in English
Chapter III - India; From Midnight to the Millennium The Faction of a Nation
Chapter IV - The Elephant, The Tiger, And the Cell Phone: Reflections on India the Emerging 21st-Century Power
Chapter V - India; The Future Is Now
Chapter VI - India Shastra: Reflection on Nation in our Time
Chapter VII - An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India
Chapter VIII - Conclusion

The first chapter proposes to introduce the research project.

The second chapter would study Indian writing in English with special reference to Shashi Tharoor.

Chapters III to VII will focus on analysis of individual texts.

The eighth chapter proposes to make an attempt to arrive at a befitting conclusion of research work.

Preliminary Bibliography

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Research Scholar

Mr. Santosh Sudhakarrao Karbhari

Research Supervisor

Dr. S.T. Haibatpure
Head, Dept. of English,
Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya
Mahavidyalaya, Deoni,
Dist.Latur- 413 519

Research Centre

P. G. Department and Research Centre in English

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